



GET FUNDING

MOSES ORGANIC FACT SHEET

Funds for Farmers

www.mosesorganic.org/fundsforfarmers.html

visit MOSES online for the most up-to-date funding information

Farming is a business, and like most businesses, it is rare to receive grant funds to support operations, purchase land or improve buildings. However, there are opportunities for farmers to receive grant support for on-farm research projects, business planning, conservation, and some kinds of marketing support. The following list outlines where to look for dollars to support these kinds of activities. For the most up-to-date funding announcements, and/or to find individual program websites and electronic applications, visit the MOSES Funds for Farmers page online (above). If you don't have access to the internet, or if you have questions, please contact MOSES Outreach Coordinator, Jeff Gunderson at (715) 778-5775, or jeff@mosesorganic.org.

Research & Producer Grants:

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

SARE is a program providing grants to researchers, agricultural educators, farmers and ranchers, and students in the U.S. Farmer project grant requests are generally due in the late fall. For more information call (612) 626-3113 or go to <http://www.sare.org/nrcsare>

Organic Cost Share Program

Cost share assistance is offered to organic producers and/or organic handlers through the State Dept. of Ag. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent. Program participants may be reimbursed for up to 75% of their organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750 per year. For more information, find your state rep contact info online at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/fundsforfarmers.html#costshare> and click on "Organic Cost Share Program Participants Contact List".

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

A non-profit foundation that sponsors research, including farmer directed research related to organic farming practices. Proposals are considered twice a year, May and November. For more information call (831) 426-6606, email jane@ofrf.org or go to <http://www.ofrf.org>

Small Biz Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

Offers grants to qualified small businesses (including small and medium-sized farms) in support of high quality, innovative research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successfully commercialized. Deadlines for this program vary. For more info contact Siva Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-7536, or go to <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/sbir/sbir.html>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Any farmer engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land may apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland; rangeland; pasture; private non-industrial forestland; and other farm or ranch lands, as determined by the Secretary of Ag. Farmers who are currently organic and are adding land can receive approx. \$1040 to pay for consultants to help them with the plan, new to organic farmers get approx. \$1465. For more info go to http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/EQIP_signup/2008_EQIP_Signup/index.html

Conservation Stewardship Program

Funding provided to farmers on a per acre basis, rewarding farmers for current good conservation practices in place. Applications are ranked higher when the farmer agrees to implement further conservation enhancements. Signups are continuous throughout the year, with specific deadlines for application rankings. Contact your local county NRCS office for more info.

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Grants may be used for planning activities, for working capital to market value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Although smaller projects may be funded, multi-year and larger projects can also fit this program, however a large match of funds is required. The application deadline is generally in mid-summer. For more info about the program, contact your State Rural Development Office at (800) 670-6553 or go to the http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html

Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program (BFRDP)

To support the nation's beginning farmers and ranchers, BFRDP will make competitive grants to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers. Project periods will be limited to 3 years. Proposed budget requests must not exceed \$300,000 per year. Priority will be given to projects that are partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. The application deadline is generally in mid-May. For more info contact Siva Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-7536; or Janie Hipp at jhipp@csrees.usda.gov, (202) 720-3605 or visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm>

Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) | PO BOX 339, Spring Valley, WI
p. 715-778-5775 | info@mosesorganic.org | www.mosesorganic.org

Organic Valley's Farmers Advocating for Organics (FAFO)

A grant fund open to all applicants seeking funding for projects or programs oriented towards protecting, safeguarding, and advancing the organic marketplace through research, education and/or advocacy. FAFO is a voluntary fund contributed to only by Organic Valley and Organic Prairie farmer-members. Once gathered, FAFO funds are distributed by a nine-member farmer committee. The FAFO Committee is interested in hearing from individuals, universities, public/private schools, NGOs, farmers and consumers who are interested in securing funds for their organic specific projects. For more information on application criteria or contact information, go to <http://www.organicvalley.coop/farmerfund> or call (888) 444-6455.

Wisconsin Grants

WI Dept. of Ag., Trade & Consumer Protection Ag. Development and Diversification (ADD)

The ADD Grant Program invites proposals for projects that are likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy through the development and exploration of new value-added products, new markets, or new technologies in agriculture. ADD grants are awarded competitively each year, with deadlines generally in mid-March. For more info, contact Mike Bandli, (608) 224-5136, mike.bandli@datcp.state.wi.us or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/add/index.jsp>

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grant Program (GLCI)

There are three types of grants offered under this program. Grazing grants for education; Grazing grants for research; and Grazing grants for technical assistance. The deadlines for all three grants are generally in mid-May. For more information, contact Laura Paine, Division of Agricultural Development, (608) 224-5120, laura.paine@wi.gov or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/grazergrant/index.jsp>

Buy Local Buy Wisconsin (BWBL)

Supports projects likely to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy by increasing the purchase of Wisconsin grown or produced food by local food buyers. Pre-proposals will be accepted from individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in Wisconsin agriculture, agritourism, food retailing, processing, distribution or warehousing. To learn more contact Teresa Cuperus at (608) 224-5101, teresa.cuperus@wisconsin.gov or go to <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/directmktg/blbw.jsp>

Wisconsin Producers First Grant Program

Supports small mid-sized farms. Successful applicants will identify a need for technical assistance and receive up to \$3000 to hire a consultant to meet that need. Examples of technical assistance include but are not limited to: business planning, accounting and financial organization, packaging and label development, whole farm planning, food safety, grant writing assistance, market development, and cooperative development. Assistance directly related to production does not qualify for this program. Any Wisconsin farmer or producer may apply. Preference will be given to producers selling at least 75% of their products to be consumed within 300 miles of the farm and with at least \$35,000 in annual sales. Application materials are available online at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/val-add/directmktg/blbw.jsp> or by contacting Keefe Keeley at (608) 224-5095, keefe.keeley@wi.gov

Minnesota Grants

Ag. Utilization Research Institute (AURI)

AURI provides expertise and assistance to increase value, demand and market opportunities for agriculturally-based products. Applicants are required to match contributions and work with AURI personnel in developing the value added project. For more information call (800) 279-5010 or go to <http://www.auri.org/>

MN Dept. of Ag. Sustainable Ag. Demonstration Grant Program (MDA)

Competitive grants up to \$25,000 are awarded to individuals or groups for on-farm sustainable agriculture research or demonstration projects in MN. The purpose of the grant program is to fund practices that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of resources as well as improve profitability and quality of life on farms and in rural areas. For more info contact Jean Ciborowski at jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us, (651) 201-6217 or go to <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/default.htm>

Iowa Grants

Leopold Center

The Leopold Center offers competitive and renewable grants for those in the state of Iowa. Grants are agriculture focused and cover a wide range of topics including: research, buy local, and policy. For more information, email leocenter@iastate.edu, call (515) 294-3711 or go to <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/index.htm>

Additional Resources

Federal Resources for Sustainable Farming/Ranching

This 28-page ATTRA guide offers an overview of the major federal conservation programs that provide resources for farmers/ranchers to enhance and maintain sustainable farming and ranching practices. Call (800) 346-9140 for a hardcopy or download a copy at http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/federal_resources.pdf

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

Available in Iowa and Nebraska, this tax program provides an incentive to current and retired farmers who rent agricultural assets to a beginning farmer. The owner receives a tax credit for several years based on the value of the lease. IA's program (515) 281-6444. NE's program (800) 446-4071.

Farm Aid

Non-profit organization working to keep family farmers on their land. Call 1-800-FARMAID, email Farmhelp@farmaid.org or go to <http://www.farmaid.org>

MIDWEST ORGANIC
& Sustainable Education Service
MOSES

Visit www.mosesorganic.org for more resources and tools, including our Organic Resource Directory and the Organic Broadcaster Newspaper. Plan to attend our annual Organic Farming Conference in February. To find upcoming events including MOSES trainings and field days visit our web calendar at: www.mosesorganic.org/events.html

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